

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

August 12, 2019

The Honorable Kevin K. McAleenan  
Acting Secretary  
Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 20528

The Honorable Matthew T. Albence  
Acting Director  
Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
500 12<sup>th</sup> St., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20536

Dear Acting Secretary McAleenan and Acting Director Albence :

We write seeking answers regarding Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) interior enforcement actions that occurred on August 7, 2019 across various cities in Mississippi and resulted in 680 arrests. This raid, which is the largest ICE raid in our nation's history, is a continuation of the Trump Administration's politically driven immigration agenda and efforts to target Latino families. It is also not lost on us that this operation occurred just days after one of the most horrific mass shooting targeting Latinos in America. Acting Secretary McAleenan, your recent statement noting that timing of these actions "was unfortunate" is a significant understatement that does not convey the pain many in our communities are experiencing now.

Just last month, the Administration disclosed its intention to execute large-scale, coordinated enforcement operations and as a result many Members of Congress and communities across the country raised concerns about how mass immigration raids can lead to inhumane family separations, cause significant anxiety, fear and trauma for American families and discord for citizens and migrants alike. Indeed, as we have seen from the mass-raid events in Postville and New Bedford it is often American children left behind and disseminated towns that pay the steepest price for these operations. Further, these type of ICE's operations harm local safety by undermining community-law enforcement trust—making residents much less likely to call the police to provide tips, report crimes and seek protection.

We were alarmed to hear that the raid occurred on the first day school and that hundreds of children were separated from their parents and came home to discover their parents were gone and their families torn apart. It is unconscionable that our government would choose to inflict unnecessary trauma to vulnerable family members, including minor children, and United States citizens. To date we have seen reports that some children with detained parents have stopped eating, sleeping and have been completely inconsolable.

ICE raids of this scale are not conducted for the purpose of immigration enforcement; instead, their purpose is to instill fear in Latino and immigrant communities at a time when Latinos are already living in terror. These workplace raids decimate communities and target law-abiding immigrants who are just trying to earn an honest living. Indeed the law enforcement effectiveness of mass-raid events like these have long been questioned. Instead of targeting undocumented workers with long-standing ties to communities, the Department of Homeland Security should use its resources to target nefarious and serious national security and public safety threats.

We also have serious concerns that ICE is targeting immigrant workers with long-standing ties to communities while ignoring flagrant immigration violations by companies and employers.

For these reasons, we request that you respond to the following questions by August 30, 2019.

1. Where did the funds to conduct this enforcement action derive from? What was the total cost for this enforcement action and the preceding investigation?
  - a. Will funds from last month's DHS supplemental appropriation bill be used to pay for or otherwise support any ICE worksite enforcement investigation and operation (including the one in Mississippi) planned for or ongoing as of July 1, 2019?
  - b. Have any funds from any DHS reprogramming request made since July 1, 2018 been used to pay for or otherwise support any ICE worksite enforcement investigation and operation (including the one in Mississippi) planned for or ongoing as of July 1, 2019?
  - c. If funds from either source have already been used, please indicate how much according to source.
2. For each individual ICE took into custody on August 7<sup>th</sup>, we ask you to please provide the following:
  - a. Date taken into custody, Congressional district of residence, name, age, if they are an unaccompanied minor, country of residence, whether they have U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident family members, and duration of residence in the U.S.
  - b. Whether warrants were secured and manner of apprehension.
  - c. Whether any immigration filings are pending with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, and the type and status of such filings.
  - d. Location where detained as of the date of this letter, whether travel documents are secured, and anticipated date and manner of removal.
  - e. Whether while detained, the individual has access to legal counsel.
3. Please provide information on how many families separations occurred as result of the raid, including how many parents were detained, the length of separation and number of parents still separated from their families.
4. Please provide the following information:
  - a. The number of orders of deportation, exclusion, or removal sought by ICE where the arrested individual claimed to have at least one U.S.-born child.
  - b. The number of orders of deportation, exclusion, or removal obtained by ICE where the arrested individual claimed to have at least one U.S.-born child.
  - c. The number of individuals arrested by ICE in these operations who were removed and claimed having at least one U.S.-born child
5. The address(es) where such enforcement operations took place;
6. The number of ICE personnel involved in the execution of the raid;
7. The names of any other law enforcement agencies with whom ICE partnered to conduct the raid;
8. Whether ICE obtained a judicial warrant signed by a judge before initiating the enforcement action, and the name of the court that issued the warrant;
9. A breakdown of how many individuals arrested were managers or owners and how many individuals were employees;
10. The names of the individuals against whom criminal charges were filed as a result of or in conjunction with the raid and the federal district court in which such charges are pending;
11. A breakdown of how many individuals were released on humanitarian grounds within 24 hours of the action, how many individuals were granted bond, how many individuals were sent to criminal custody, and how many individuals were sent to civil administrative custody due to alleged immigration violations, as a result of the action;
12. The number of children who had a parent detained in the action, broken into the following age ranges: 0-3 years old, 4-7 years old, 8-11 years old, 12+ years old.

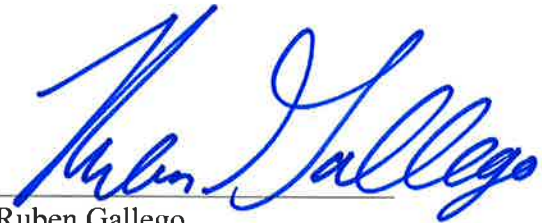
13. Please provide information on any criminal charges that were levied against any of the owners or employers targeted by the raid.
14. Please provide information on whether school districts were notified before the raids and if not, when were they notified? Was there continuous, open communication between ICE and the school districts as the enforcement begun as well as during the preceding investigation? What resources were available for the school districts from ICE to handle the number of children left without their parents at the end of the school day?
15. Please describe any ICE requests for assistance or support for at-large enforcement operations from August 7<sup>th</sup> from state and local law enforcement and other agencies, including the identity of the agencies and the nature of requested assistance (e.g., access to databases, perimeter setup, other logistical support, and detention in local or state facilities).
16. What plans has your office made to house detainees in temporary facilities? What process do you use to verify the conditions in these temporary facilities? How do you facilitate access to counsel for detainees in these temporary facilities?

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Joaquin Castro  
CHC Chairman



Ruben Gallego  
CHC First Vice-Chair



Nanette Diaz Barragan  
CHC Second Vice-Chair



Adriano Espaillat  
CHC Whip



Veronica Escobar  
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